IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0075] In the embodiment of FIG. 10H, the belt assembly 570 can include a plurality of post members 572 bridging receptacle 128 for providing attachment positions for an instrument with a clip. In this embodiment, however, the belt assembly can also be provided with one or more post members 574, positionally adjustable within slot 573, to frictionally receive and retain the scissors-like or circular handle 575 of a typical 5 mm laparoscopic grasper ~~574~~ 576 disposed around the post member.

[0095] The entire belt assembly including the accessory 600, support 700 and medical device such as the clamp 712, shown in Fig. 14, is designed to eliminate the need for additional support staff to assist the surgeon during a surgical operation. In use, the belt assembly 10, 100 is laid across the patient and secured in the manner previously described. An accessory 600 having a locking apparatus 622 is then attached to the belt assembly 10, 100. The support 700 with medical device support 626 and spherical base 624 may then be inserted into the locking apparatus 622. Once so inserted, the locking mechanism 632 may be positioned such that a minimal amount of friction is generated between the spherical base 624 and the recessed portion 635 of fixed block 628 and the recessed portion 638 of ~~rotable~~ rotatable block 630. This minimal friction should be sufficient to allow the support 700 to be positioned in an upright stance while still permitting selective rotation and deflection of the support.

[0097] It will be appreciated that the portions of the first cover 702 and the second cover 704 facing each other may be provided with additional materials to assist with the securing

of the clamp 712 or other medical device. Such materials include high density foam, rubber coatings, or the like. It is generally ~~preferably~~ preferable that any such material generally used have the qualities of cushioning the clamp 712 or other medical device while also having a relatively high level of friction between the material and the medical device. It is also preferable that the material be somewhat resilient, to assist with preventing sliding of the clamp 712 or other medical device.

[0102] The following table illustrates several of the key features of the present invention. By no means is this table to be considered as complete, exhaustive, or in any way limiting of the features of the present invention.

Modular Design

a) enables broadening of the range of laparoscopic retraction;

b) provides varying widths to accommodate a patient's girth;

c) longitudinal platform module makes it possible to position instruments intended to displace tissue or organs in a direction at right angles to that achievable with the previous design.

A. Interlocking Modules

a) allows retraction by positioned instruments dependent on the orientation of the slots and rungs of the individual modules;

b) the mechanism of interlocking is universal so that modules with horizontally disposed struts may be interlocked with similar modules or with modules having vertically directed struts to form a belt;

c) the constructions or modules may be fixed by rods which are disposed through the interdigitalized links;

d) this construction permits the surgeon to customize the instrument positioning device to the patient and the planned procedure;

e) the attachment of the instruments to the positioning device could be

(i) by hooks attached to straps or the handle of instruments being positioned;

(ii) by using ~~by~~ projections on the instruments;

(iii) by individual gripping clips which can be applied to the instrument handle;

(iv) other means disclosed herein;

f) each module may preferably be 10 cm wide and may be formed from molded plastic;

g) the undersurface may be padded with synthetic plastic or foam;

h) the assembly may be secured to the operating table with adjustable length non-elastic straps;

i) the end pieces may be designed to provide for attachment of these adjustable table straps which may fix the composite belt to the operating room table;

1. Platform Design

a) a single platform may be used in lieu of interlocking modules;

b) platforms may be sized for use with patients of varying girth;

c) the platform may be secured to the operating table by adjustable non-elastic straps.

2. Retractor Holding Accessory

a) Anti-rotational Device

i) the anti-rotation device may be used effectively with all currently marketed laparoscopic tissue retractors;

ii) the anti-rotation device may be strapped to the retractor handle so as to saddle the handle;

b) Positioning System

i) a pulley system may be positioned over the saddle to position the retractor and help to control rotation;

ii) the pulley system may be adjusted to maintain retraction by changing the lengths of pulley cord to the right and left of the anti-rotation device.

iii) the straps of the pulley system may be securely fastened using an adjustment buckle located on the platform;

iv) the straps may include handles to assist with leveraging;

v) when not in use, these handles may be housed in slots provided therefor on the platform.

c) Stabilization System

i) a pivot wedge may be placed under the retractor handle or shaft so that the handle or shaft passes through a notch with the appropriate

height for the individual patient's abdominal girth;

ii) the pivot wedge may be inserted into various receiving points on the platform coinciding with the location of the positioning system and surgical entry point.

3. General Features of Belt Assembly

a) detachable rings or straps may be used to organize a laparoscopic camera, light cords or other lines entering operative field;

b) once positioned, the instrument and all appurtenances will remain in position even with changes in the operating room table position, such as to the reversed Trendelenberg position;

c) a telescope and camera cradle attachment may also be provided to fit within docking sites provided therefor on the platform;

d) the system may include tissue grasper holders or other accessories adapted to be inserted into docking sites provided on the belt assembly.

4. General Features of Docking Sites

a) provide versatility in that a single belt design may utilize various docking site accessories such as a telescope base or a camera cradle base, among others;

b) may be provided with locking grips for stabilization within the base;

d) permit reuse of the docking site accessories even if the belt is disposable;

symmetrical shape permits the docking site accessory to be installed with multiple orientations.